

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING: November 18, 2014 6PM

START: 6:26 PM

END: 8:05 PM

MINUTES

Lori Damon called the meeting to order. The minutes were still being completed and will be distributed digitally via e-mail for review, edits and confirmation.

BOARD PARTICIPATION

New Members

Calvin Lindsay, Jr. was appointed for a three-year term and will officially join the Board for the December meeting. David Daniel has standing teaching conflict this semester on Tuesdays, which hampers his ability to attend the monthly meetings. However, he will participate as a Panel Member for the Cambridge Arts Grant Program review and will be engaged related to the Poet Populist Program, Sidewalk Poetry pilot project and to advise on the possibility of developing a new program with poetry and music as a next step in Cambridge Arts support of poetry and community of poets in Cambridge.

Magazine Beach

Jason reminded members that Diana Lempel has been very involved with the Magazine Beach exhibition team and exhibit, particularly with the storytelling component of the project and installation.

Le Laboratoire

Lori D. and Jason summarized Le Laboratoire and let the members know that they had attended to grant opening in recent weeks for this new space and program based in Kendall Square. David Edwards, Harvard professor of biochemical engineering started an experimental lab in Paris that brings together professional scientists and professional artists as a way to support and extend their individual and collective work efforts and research. Recently, Dr. Edwards opened branch in Cambridge, also referred to as ArtScience Labs. The Lab is a support mechanism for idea translation, which has become a key tenant and process as part of Dr. Edwards work here in Cambridge and in Paris. Originally the founder of the Cloud Foundation and Cloud Place in Boston, the programs more recently initiated under ArtScience Labs engages students in the public schools systems in Boston and Cambridge to address global themes and concerns with solutions-based thinking and practice. Organized around a common theme annual, ArtScience Prize provides in and out of school teaching resources and materials and supplies so that students can work individually or collectively to develop ideas and solutions that address the theme and concern presented. Following a semester of work, the students or student teams present their work in public settings and projects are reviewed by a panel of arts and sector-related professionals. The winning teams are provided with financial resources sufficient to execute their ideas and bring a product or service to the 'market' for broader use in addressing stated concerns. In recent years, the finalist student teams have been taken by Dr. Edwards to Le Laboratoire in Paris to share their work with professionals in that setting. Carrie Fitzimmons, Executive Director of Art Science Labs, is now in the second year of implementing the program in the Cambridge Public Schools.

Harvard Art Museums

Diane gave a summary of the community opening which highlighted strong connections with Thomas Lentz, museum director and Dr. Young, Superintendent of CPS. There is great potential for partnerships with music and dance performances in the courtyard space as well as art access for schools across the city. The close proximity to CRLS is especially welcome. Diane also gave a brief overview of the new building by Renzo Piano and how it successfully brings clarity to the organization of tying three museums

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL

MEETING: November 18, 2014 6PM

to one and offers an inspiring transparency and access to the collections, teaching, and conservation labs.

Lesley University College of Art and Design (LUCAD)

Jason gave an update on the project and confirmation that Lesley on track to complete and inhabit the new facility in January 2015. Jason has been asked to speak at opening events scheduled for the last week in January. He has also been invited to serve as a standing member of the Dean's Advisory Committee. There are plans to have an annual exhibition of Cambridge artists in one of the 5-7 galleries and exhibition areas under development. Additionally, Dean Zauft has offered partnership on long-term and temporary public art-making on the new campus and agreed to increase annual support of local visual artists and performers participating in *Cambridge Open Studios* from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Jason also reported that Dean Zauft will be creating community liaison positions and expanding the partnership between LUCAD and Maud Morgan Arts, a citywide arts center based in the Agassiz Baldwin Community.

Many Helping Hands/Day of Service

Jason gave an update on new initiative with Mayor's office to have 6 art exhibits over the course of the year that engage young artists in Cambridge Public Schools (4 exhibitions) and Creativity Commons (2 exhibitions) to have their work on display in the Mayor's office for a period of 4-5 weeks. Lori L. also provided an update on the Many Helping Hands/Day of Service and her discussions with the Mayor that the student exhibition being planned for January could also showcase art and community engagement that follows the inspiration of Martin Luther King's call-to-service. The art inspired by MLK day exhibit will now be coordinated by the Mayor's office and will be on exhibit from 1/16 – 3/3 and feature an opportunity to have an exhibition reception on 1/26 for students and teachers. The exhibitions are professional installed by Cambridge Arts (Jeremy Gaucher to coordinate).

Diane said she was delighted that this is happening because it has been a challenge to get student participation unless it is part of the CPS art curriculum and the Mayor's office now endorsing it should make a difference. There is still the challenge of highlighting the show on MLK day with the crowd of 3,000 people and Lori L. and Ann L. clarified that this will be worked out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Foundry Works Building

Jason gave update, city committed to feasibility report and managing the updates to the building envelope and ADA requirements. He summarized that there is great potential for tying community-based arts and education programs (e.g. ArtScience Prize) to the Foundry building given the mandate in the transfer of the building to city ownership that a minimum of 10% of overall space be utilized for 'Community Use.' Jason indicated that the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority is working closely with the city administration and City Council to manage the community engagement and to develop various development scenarios for the property that would be in synch with the wishes of the community and City Council. Jason suggested an interesting model for this development could be the Alice K. Wolf Center in Central Square (former Cambridge Police Headquarters, which is now home to Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, Community Learning Center and Cambridge Multiservice Center). In that case, the building has a lead tenant with the Housing Trust which aids in subsidizing the space for the related divisions of the Department of Human Service Programs working with the homeless and immigrant populations. Jason advised that there has been some highly general discussion of the Art Council relocating to this space to provide oversight and management for the arts-related use, but that this is highly depending on the model for how the property is ultimately developed. Jason indicated that this

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING: November 18, 2014 6PM

could also be beneficial to the current and future programs of the Arts Council and would also allow for closer connection and partnership between Cambridge Arts and the arts and culture sector organizations to the local business associations and large and growing companies and new resident centers in this area of the city. Jason clarified that any role Cambridge Arts might play would be in close dialogue with the Multicultural Center and would not overlap with their current programming and activity.

Luis expressed concern that community meetings have moved from all arts focus to 'STEAM' as art focus which can translate from 100% arts to only 20% arts use. Luis also added that there is a need for corporate social responsibility to support artists in the neighborhoods of Kendall Square and East Cambridge. The area is filled with variances and although Cambridge based artists are represented, there is too little support and connection for individual artists.

Public Art: Fern St Reconstruction

Jason gave a presentation to the members of the process for streetscape improvements with the project, *Touch and Go*, developed by artists Chat Travieso and Yezu Choi. The project involves and encourages active community participation, textures, colorful floor to wall treatments, which are reminiscent of Sol LeWitt's work. This is also an example of public art project that is able to be more significant in scale and support through combining sewer separation budget with Fern Street surface improvements.

GIS Mapping

Jason presented a draft version of a new Public Art Map designed as a simpler physical copy to compliment the website public art tour and showcase New England's largest contemporary public art collection (not including historic and current public artwork on the MIT campus). Jason added that the Arts Council is also developing and using video in many dynamic ways to document and capture specific information and context for public artworks and art-making in the city. Jason also added the key areas of focus for large-scale municipal construction in the city during the next 10-12 years will be the renovation or redevelopment of schools to accommodate the Upper Schools at four locations in the city. Currently underway is the wholesale rebuild of the Martin Luther King, Jr. School on Putnam Avenue. For that project, the artist selected to execute a public art component is Christopher Janney. Jason indicated that the project is under development and that he would share updates in early 2015 on the progress with the project.

It is the hope of Jason, Lori D. and the members of in the Cambridge Public Art Commission that these school projects will be a good opportunity to increase support and output related to public art in these projects and settings. PAC members, Lori D. and staff have been meeting with the City Manager and Budget Department staff to discuss this work and opportunities as it connects to the Public Art Program.

The next meeting of the Cambridge Arts Advisory Board is Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Present: Luis Cotto, Lori Damon, Lori Lander, Ann Lawson, Diane Norris, Aliyah Gary, Jason Weeks

Absent: Stella McGregor, Diane Lempel, David Daniel, Calvin Lindsay, Jr.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Norris, Secretary, Cambridge Arts